

# **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION FOR COAL WORKERS**



***Resolution Adopted by  
City of Morgantown Human Rights Commission  
August 20, 2015***

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A JUST TRANSITION FOR COAL WORKERS

**Whereas**, natural gas is reportedly now the top source of fuel for electric power generation and carbon fuels are being deemphasized to address weather, climate, pollution, health, safety and other livability concerns, and

**Whereas**, coal workers who mine, transport, and process coal at power plants are facing serious income consequences due to job displacement and are being left with their families and communities, including Morgantown, to bear the brunt of the transition to a lower carbon economy, and

**Whereas**, forcing coal workers to “move on” without comparable jobs being available, and without the job training or experience to qualify for comparable jobs if they were available, is unjust and damaging not only to the coal workers’ financial security but to their social participation, spending, and tax paying as well, and

**Whereas**, although the nation has a poor record in supporting workers in major economic transitions in its history, it does have the successful records for the way that it coped with periods of temporary unemployment as well as for the ways in which it provided a just transition for thousands of military personnel at the end of World War II in which for every dollar the nation invested in the G.I. Bill, home loans, and health care, it received a growth benefit of between \$5 and \$7 in its economy, and

**Whereas**, the nation has current models for benefit systems for providing health care, education and training, and home loans for veterans as well as authority to pass legislation increasing protection for corporate coal worker pensions, and

**Whereas**, coal workers have provided front line service not unlike that of non-combat veterans and been those prominently affected by the dangers and polluting industrial practices in a coal production based economy:

**Be It Therefore Resolved**, that The Morgantown Human Rights Commission calls upon the Morgantown City Council to support a just transition for coal workers and to communicate with the President, the West Virginia Congressional Delegation and the Monongalia County State Legislative Delegation - to advocate for just transition safeguards for coal workers whereby education and retraining, health care, and home loans are provided for four year time spans or other limited time periods as well as assure that coal workers receive increased protection for their pension plans in corporate reorganization or dissolution.

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the Morgantown City Council advocate for industrial redevelopment funding to generate sustainable industries in present coal mining areas to generate a more acceptable workforce productivity and reliable prosperity by which the society as a whole, rather than dislocated workers and affected communities, takes responsibility for the impacts caused by changes from which everyone can benefit.

***Be It Furthermore Resolved,*** that the Morgantown City Council advocate for funding to renew road, sidewalk, water, sewer and telecommunications infrastructure to promote economic growth in communities damaged or otherwise impacted by a coal based economy.

Adopted by the HRC this 20th day of August, 2015.



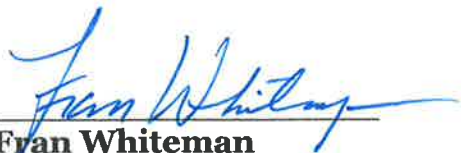
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